GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2756
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
LACK OF BASIC HEALTHCARE FACILITIES
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of children die due to lack of basic healthcare amenities in the country;

(b) if so,the details thereof,inclusive the number of children died during the last three years and the current year;state-wise,year-wise;

(c) whether UNICEF and WHO have released any report in this regard;

(d) if so,the details thereof;and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)to(e): As per the National Family Health Survey-III (NFHS-III) (2005-06) the neonatal mortality rate is 39 per 1000 live births,the infant mortality rate is 57 per 1000 live births,and child mortality rate is 18.4 per 1000 live births. The year-wise figures and State-wise figure are at Annexure-I and II.

As per the World Health Statistics Report 2008 of World Health Organisation, the neonatal mortality and infant mortality rate for India is 39 per 1000 live births and 57 per 1000 live births respectively.And as per the State of World Children Report 2008 of UNICEF the infant mortality rate for 2006 for India is 57 per 1000 live births and neonatal mortality for the year 2000 is 43 per 1000 live births.

Action is being taken by the Union Government to bring down the infant and child mortality rate in the country. A major initiative is implementation of the Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) strategy, which adopts a holistic approach to the management of the commonest causes of neonatal and childhood mortality−sepsis acute respiratory infections diarrhoea,measles and malaria,all compounded by malnutrition.In addition,thrust is being given to ensure institutional deliveries and train health personnel on essential newborn care so that skilled attendance at birth is available and all newborns receive specialized care.Efforts to deliver new born and child care,both facility based as well as home based,are being made. Micronutrient supplementation with Vitamin A,Iron Folic Acid and Zinc and Infant and Young Child Nutrition are being stressed.Immunization is one of the major thrust areas of the ongoing Reproductive & Child Health Programme.The National Rural Health Mission,launched in April,2005 for a period of 7 years (2005 to 2012) is an overarching initiative with a holistic approach which provides multiple strategic additionalities,like provision for health infrastructure up-gradation and a health care worker for every 1000 population,among others and has envisaged reduction in neonatal,infant and child mortality as one of the prime goals to be achieved.